

Genetic Selection for Reciprocal Translocation at Chosen Chromosomal Sites in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

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We have constructed viable *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains containing a reciprocal translocation between the *URA2* site of chromosome X and the *HIS3* site of chromosome XV. Our methodology is an extension of the method originally developed to introduce an altered cloned sequence at the chromosomal location from which the parent sequence was derived (S. Scherer and R. W. Davis, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 76:4951-4955, 1979). It comprises three essential steps. First, a nonreverting *ura2*⁻ strain was constructed by deleting a 3.7-kilobase fragment from the coding sequence of the wild-type *URA2* gene. Second, part of the coding sequence of the wild-type *URA2* gene (without promoter) was inserted at the *HIS3* locus of the *ura2*⁻ strain. Third, after several generations of growth on uracil-supplemented medium, *ura2*⁺ colonies were selected which resulted from mitotic recombination between the nonoverlapping deletions of *URA2* located on chromosomes X and XV.

In 1980, Chaleff and Fink (2) and Roeder and Fink (13) described reciprocal translocation between chromosomes I and III and chromosomes III and XII. These translocations are very likely the products of illegitimate recombination between the insertion element Ty1 (1) and nonhomologous DNA on another chromosome.

We have developed a method involving reciprocal translocation between two chosen chromosomal sites, *URA2* on chromosome X and *HIS3* on chromosome XV, genetically selected for recombination between nonoverlapping deletions of *URA2*. This method is an extension of the one originally developed to reinsert altered cloned sequences at their chromosomal location (14). As starting material, we needed an unexpressed sequence of one of the genes which could be integrated at the other selective marker locus without changing the auxotrophic phenotype of the receptor strain. The *URA2* (7) gene was chosen because a 6.4-kilobase (kb) *Bam*HI fragment containing coding sequences for its enzymes, that is, part of the carbamyl phosphate synthetase sequence and the aspartate transcarbamylase sequence (but not their promoter), had been cloned recently and its restriction map was described (J. L. Souciet, J. C. Hubert, and F. Lacroute, Mol. Gen. Genet., in press). *HIS3*, the structural gene for imidazoleglycerol-phosphate dehydratase, was used as the selective marker and is completely enclosed in a 1.7-kb *Bam*HI fragment (gift of A. Hinnen, originally from J. D. Friesen).

In this paper we present the different detailed steps of the method as well as genetic and biochemical evidence that allowed us to demonstrate the occurrence of the reciprocal translocation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Yeasts, bacteria, and plasmids. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains used in this study were derivatives of α GRF18 (*his3*⁻ *leu2*⁻) (from G. R. Fink), a FL100, and α FL200. They were grown in YEPD (1% yeast extract, 2% peptone, 2% glucose) or in YNB (yeast nitrogen base [Difco], 6.7 g/liter; 2% glucose), supplemented adequately. *Escherichia coli* strains were grown on L-broth or minimal medium M9 (8). Ampicillin and other supplements as required were added at 50 μ g/ml (final concentration) in *S. cerevisiae* or *E. coli* media.

Plasmid JLS1 (Amp^r, Ura2A⁺) contains *URA2* gene coding sequences, most of the carbamyl phosphate synthetase sequence, and all of the aspartate transcarbamylase sequence without their promoter in a 6.4-kb *Bam*HI fragment cloned in the *Bam*HI site of pBR322 (Souciet et al., in press). It complements the corresponding *E. coli* auxotroph MB1131 *pyrB* derived from DB6272 (from D. Botstein) and is deficient in aspartate transcarbamylase. The plasmids pBW2, pBW3, and pBW4 contain pJLS1 DNA in addition to a 1.7-kb *Bam*HI fragment containing the *HIS3* gene in three of the four possible positions as presented in Fig. 1. We have determined *Bgl*II sites to locate and orient *HIS3* with regard to *URA2* in the plasmids. These plasmids complement the corresponding *E. coli* auxotrophs MB1131 *pyrB* and HISB463 (16).

DNA preparation. Preparation of plasmid DNA from *E. coli* cultures was as described by Clewell and

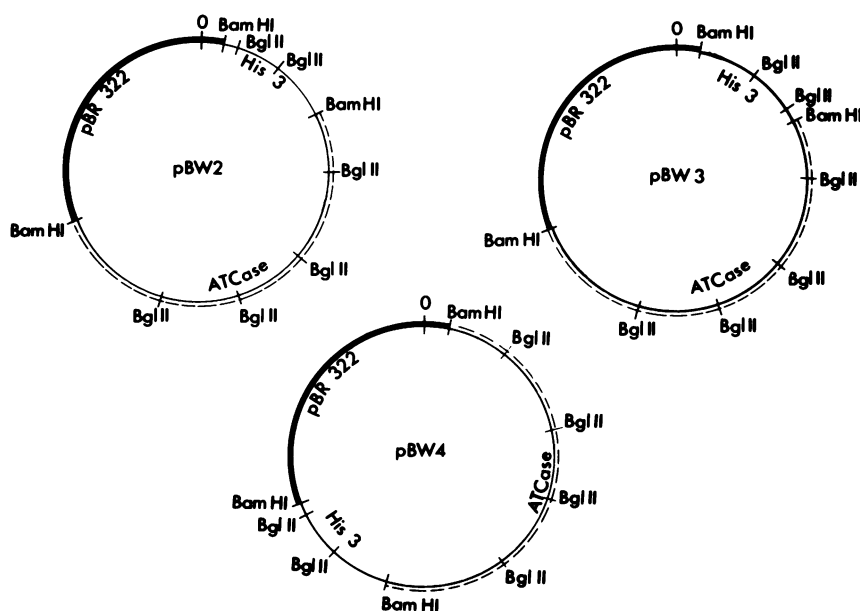


FIG. 1. Structure of plasmids pBW2, pBW3, and pBW4. The *Bam*HI fragment of the *URA2* gene is outlined by a dashed line. pBR322 is represented by a heavy solid line. The 1.7-kb *Bam*HI fragment containing the *HIS3* gene, shown as a thin solid line, presents a slight variation compared to the results of Struhl et al. (17). We found two *Bgl*II sites here, whereas the *HIS3* gene from their strain contained only one *Bgl*II site.

Helinski (5) with minor modifications. We purified *S. cerevisiae* DNA by the method of Struhl et al. (18). Restriction endonuclease and ligation assays were as indicated by the suppliers (Biolabs Inc., Beverly, Mass., and Boehringer, Mannheim, West Germany). Published procedures were followed for gel electrophoresis (4), nick-translation (12), and transfer of DNA onto nitrocellulose (15).

Transformations and genetic analysis. *S. cerevisiae* cells were transformed by the method of Hinnen et al. (9). *E. coli* cells were transformed as described by Cohen et al. (6). *S. cerevisiae* crosses and random spore analysis were as described by Mortimer and Hawthorne (11).

Cell labeling, RNA extraction, and hybridizations. Cells were labeled with [³H]adenine, and RNA was extracted from 15-ml cultures by the method of Waldron and Lacroute (20). Conditions for hybridization of DNA, fixed on nitrocellulose filters, to RNAs have been described elsewhere (10). We measured specific hybridization of a 1.4-kb *Bgl*II DNA fragment of the *URA2* gene coding strand (called *Bgl*B) cloned in the phage M13 mp7 (J. L. Souciet and J. C. Hubert, personal communication).

RESULTS

Construction of α GRF18 Δ ura2A strain. Plasmid SAP101 was constructed in vitro as follows. After cleavage with *Bgl*II and subsequent ligation, three restriction fragments totaling 3.7 kb were deleted from pJLS1. *Bgl*B is a part of the deletion. A *Bam*HI fragment containing the *HIS3* gene was introduced by partial restriction of this plasmid by *Bam*HI and subsequent ligation.

The pSAP101 structure was verified by restriction mapping and by the fact that it complemented *E. coli* HisB463 but not *E. coli* MB1131 (*pyrB*).

We transformed α GRF18 (*leu2⁻ his3⁻*) with this plasmid and selected for a His⁺ phenotype. The yeast sequences of pSAP101 could recombine with the homologous sequences on chromosome XV (*HIS3*) or on chromosome X (*URA2*). In the first case the recombinant phenotype would be His⁺ Ura⁺; in the second case, His⁺ Ura⁺ and His⁺ Ura⁻ were possible depending on the region of crossover (Fig. 2, step A). Thus, we selected for His⁺ Ura⁻ clones because this phenotype represents the only possibility for the site of integration being the *URA2* locus (Fig. 2).

His⁺ Ura⁻ transformants were grown on complete medium for about 10 generations. After nystatin selection we looked for His⁻ Ura⁻ strains which could have resulted from looping-out (Fig. 2, step B). In these strains we confirmed by Southern blot (Fig. 3) the presence of only the *URA2A⁻* deleted sequence; wild-type *URA2A*, *HIS3*, and pBR322 sequences must have been lost from the chromosome X structure. Moreover, we found β -lactamase activity resulting from pBR322 expression (3) in transformed α GRF18 but not in α GRF18 Δ ura2A. Finally, we did not detect any hybridization of mRNAs from α GRF18 Δ ura2A with *Bgl*B coding-strand DNA (results not shown).

Insertion of the promoter-deleted *URA2* se-

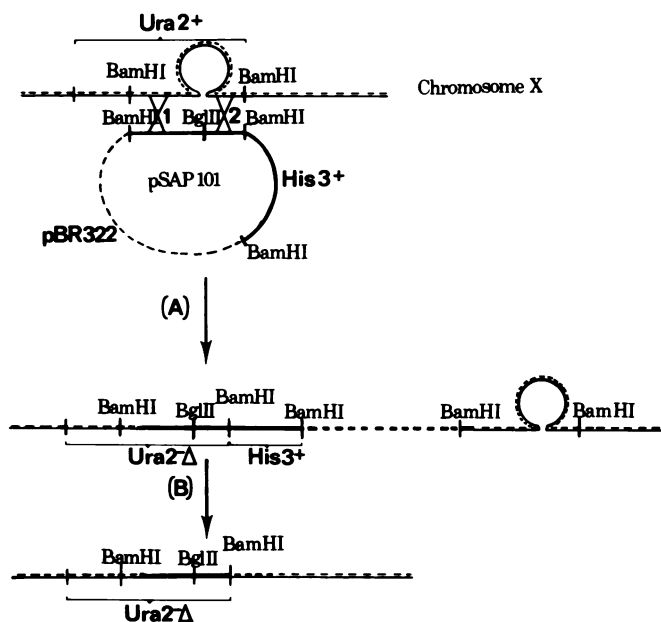


FIG. 2. Construction of a *URA2A* gene deletion. (A) pSAP101 introduction into α GRF18 chromosome X by crossover at position 1. (B) Wild-type *URA2A*, *HIS3*, and pBR322 loss (looping-out) by crossover at positions 1 and 2.

quence into α GRF18 Δ *ura2A*. Plasmids pBW2, pBW3, and pBW4 were used to transform α GRF18 Δ *ura2A* strain to insert the *URA2* gene without its promoter at the *HIS3* locus on chromosome XV. The transformants, called, respectively, α SP4, α SP8, and α SP11, were identified

by crossing with a FL100 and looking for four *His⁺* spores per ascus. Their genotype was *leu2⁻ his3⁺ ura2⁻*. We confirmed the absence of hybridization of α SP4 mRNAs with *Bgl*B coding-strand DNA (results not shown).

Selection of reciprocal translocations. Translocation resulting from recombination between two fragments of the *URA2* gene was selected by subjecting the *His⁺* transformants to selective pressure for a *Ura⁺* phenotype. That is, α

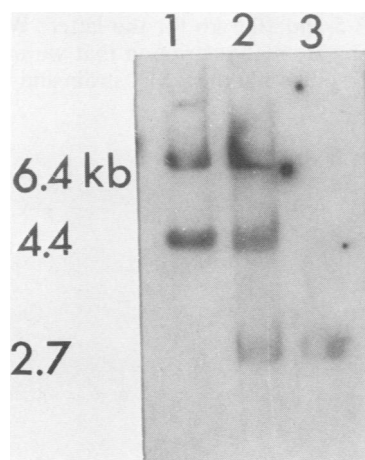


FIG. 3. Structure of strain α GRF18 Δ *ura2A*. To show that pBR322 and the *URA2* sequences (of the *Bam*HI fragment) are not present in the deleted strain, pJLS1 probe DNA was hybridized in a Southern blot with *Bam*HI-cleaved DNA from: lane 1, pJLS1; lane 2, strain α GRF18 (*leu2⁻ his3⁺ ura2⁻*) transformed with pBW2; lane 3, strain α GRF18 Δ *ura2A* (*leu2⁻ his3⁻ ura2⁻*). DNA sizes in kb are shown to the left.

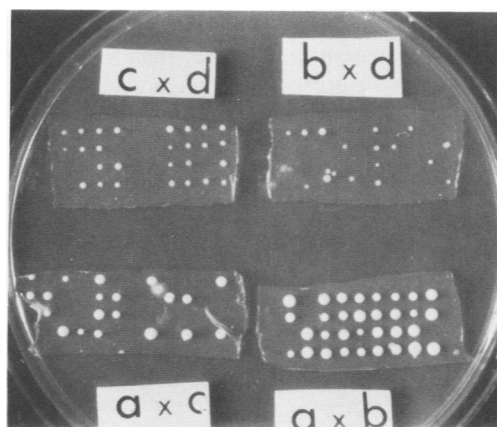


FIG. 4. Sporulation of progeny from crosses between translocated strains. Strains α SPT2A, α SPT2B, α SPT2C, and α SPT2D were abbreviated as a, b, c, and d, respectively.

SP4, α SP8, and α SP11 were grown on YNB supplemented with leucine and uracil for six or seven generations, and then 5×10^6 cells were spread on YNB with leucine. The progeny of α SP8 and α SP11 did not give any Ura⁺ recombinants, but 100 Ura⁺ clones were obtained from strain α SP4, which represents a recombination frequency of 2×10^{-5} . Taking into account the different orientation of *HIS3* with regard to *URA2A* in pBW2 as opposed to pBW3 and pBW4 (Fig. 1), we deduced that the translocation must have given rise to dicentric or acentromeric chromosomes in α SP8 and α SP11 and monocentric chromosomes in α SP4. If this is so, it could explain the preceding results regarding whether or not viable reciprocally translocated strains were obtained.

Genetic behavior of translocated strains. We have looked more closely at one of the translocated strains, called α SPT2 (*leu2⁻ his3⁺ ura2⁺*). Strain α SPT2 was crossed with a FL100 to obtain a tetrad with translocated and wild-type spores of both mating types. Among 30 asci dissected, only four tetrads were found with all four spores capable of germination. These results (4 per 30) correspond to the expected frequency of parental ditype asci. Only one tetrad contained the mating type distribution sought for: spores of α SPT2A, α SPT2B, α SPT2C, and α SPT2D. The control cross of α SP4 with a FL100 resulted in almost 100% germination of the dissected tetrads.

The four spores from cross α SPT2 \times α FL100 were crossed with each other, and 12 asci per cross were analyzed (Fig. 4). Crosses $a \times b$ (α SPT2A \times α SPT2B) and $c \times d$ (α SPT2C \times α SPT2D) gave rise to almost 100% germination, whereas crosses $a \times c$ and $b \times d$ gave rise to only 50% germination. These data suggested that $c \times d$ and $a \times b$ could be homologous crosses between two wild-type or two reciprocally translocated strains and that $a \times c$ and $b \times d$ could be crosses between a wild-type and a reciprocally translocated strain. The same type of results was obtained with seven other *leu2⁻ his3⁺ ura2⁺* strains.

It seemed probable at this stage that only parental type spores conserved a normal genetic complement and that recombinant genomes were not viable. To confirm this hypothesis we crossed one of the translocated strains, α SPT2C (*his3⁺ ura2⁺*), with the doubly auxotrophic parental strain α GRF18 Δ *ura2A*, which allowed us to recognize parental and recombinant genomes by their phenotypes. After sporulation and dissection the phenotypes of the viable spores (50%) were tested. No recombinant His⁻ Ura⁺ or His⁺ Ura⁻ spores were present. To demonstrate that the His⁺ Ura⁺ spores were translocated strains and that the His⁻ Ura⁻

spores contained the normal genetic complement, we compared the Southern blots of DNA from the two viable spores of three putative tetratypes (Fig. 5). The *Bam*HI *URA2* fragment served as a probe for the *Bam*HI restricted DNAs. The His⁻ Ura⁻ strains SPT2E-1, SPT2F-1, and SPT2G-1 contained only one major band of 2.7 kb, whereas the His⁺ Ura⁺ strains SPT2E-2, SPT2F-2, and SPT2G-2 revealed two major bands of 6.4 and 2.7 kb.

Biochemical evidence for chromosomal modifications. To obtain direct evidence for the translocation, we analyzed molecular weight differences between the chromosomal restriction patterns of α SP4, α SPT2, α SPT2A, α SPT2B, α SPT2C, α SPT2D, and α GRF18 Δ *ura2A*. First, we compared *Sal*I-cleaved total DNA from each strain by using pJLS1 (Fig. 6), the *Bam*HI *URA2* fragment (Fig. 7), and pBR322 (Fig. 8) as radioactive probes. We chose *Sal*I because the *URA2 Bam*HI fragment does not contain a *Sal*I restriction site. Thus we could detect differences in the chromosomal neighborhood of the *URA2 Bam*HI fragment.

The α SPT2A and α SPT2B strains showed only one approximately 16-kb fragment with pJLS1 or *Bam*HI *URA2* as the probe and none with pBR322; they corresponded to the wild-type spores. The α SPT2C and α SPT2D strain patterns were the same as that of α SPT2, the parental translocated strain. The α SPT2 type chromosomal restriction map was significantly different from that of α SP4. The pJLS1 and the *Bam*HI *URA2* fragment probes revealed two bands, of about 13 and 11 kb for the former and about 13.5 and 10.5 kb for the latter. We have verified by *Bam*HI restriction that we have the same DNA insert in the α SP4 strain and in the α

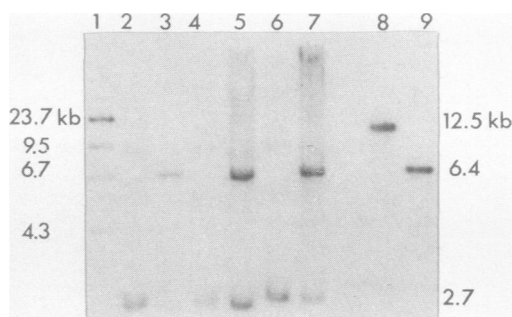


FIG. 5. *URA2A* content of His⁻ Ura⁻ and His⁺ Ura⁺ spores. Southern blot of DNA from: lane 1, phage λ cleaved with *Hind*III; lane 2, SPT2E-1; lane 3, SPT2E-2; lane 4, SPT2F-1; lane 5, SPT2F-2; lane 6, SPT2G-1; lane 7, SPTG-2. Lane 9, pBW2 cleaved with *Bam*HI, and lane 8, pBW2 cleaved with *Xho*I, after hybridization with radioactive λ DNA and *Bam*HI fragment DNA.

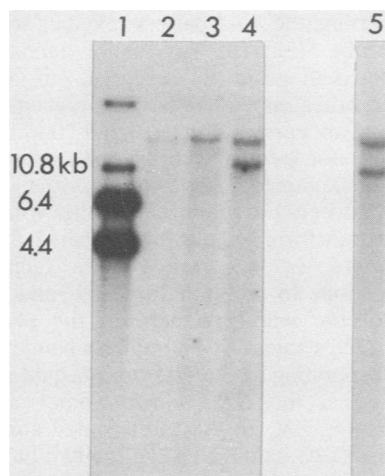


FIG. 6. *URA2A* and pBR322 content of translocated strains. Southern blot of DNA from (lane 1) pJLS1 cleaved with *Bam*HI, (lane 2) α SPT2A, (lane 3) α SPT2B, (lane 4) α SPT2C, and (lane 5) α SP4, cleaved with *Sal*I after hybridization with pJLS1. Sizes in kb are shown to the left.

SPT2 strain (Fig. 9). The DNA surrounding *URA2* was different, however. Another translocated strain analyzed by Southern blot gave the same results (data not shown).

To demonstrate that *HIS3* was translocated to chromosome X, we compared Southern blots of

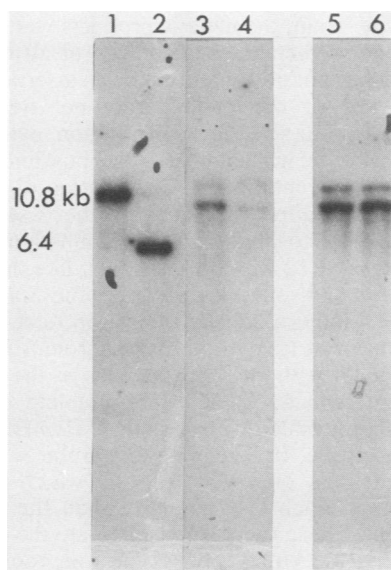


FIG. 7. *URA2A* content of translocated strains. Southern blot of DNA from: lane 1, pJLS1 cleaved with *Sal*I; lane 2, pJLS1 cleaved with *Bam*HI; lane 3, α SPT2; lane 4, α SP4; lane 5, α SPT2C; and lane 6, α SPT2D. All samples were cleaved with *Sal*I after hybridization with radioactive *Bam*HI *URA2* fragment.

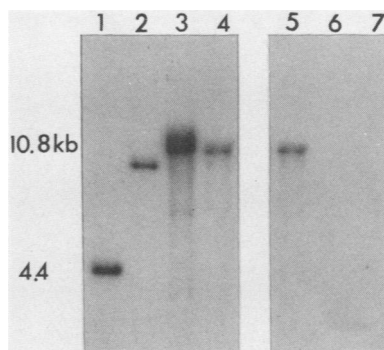


FIG. 8. pBR322 content of translocated strains. Southern blot of DNA from: lane 1, pJLS1 cleaved with *Bam*HI; lane 2, pJLS1; lane 3, α SP4; lane 4, α SPT2D; lane 5, α SPT2C; lane 6, α SPT2B; and lane 7, α SPT2A cleaved with *Sal*I after hybridization with radioactive pBR322.

*Xho*I-cleaved total DNA from wild-type parental and translocated strains. The *HIS3 Bam*HI fragment (1.7 kb) cloned in the phage M13 mp7 was used as a probe (Fig. 10). There is one *Xho*I site in the *HIS3 Bam*HI fragment, but none in the *URA2 Bam*HI fragment or in pBR322.

The α SPT2A, α SPT2B, and α GRF18 Δ *ura2A* DNAs showed four bands of about 40, 20, 10, and 9 kb. The α SPT2C, α SPT2D, and α SPT2

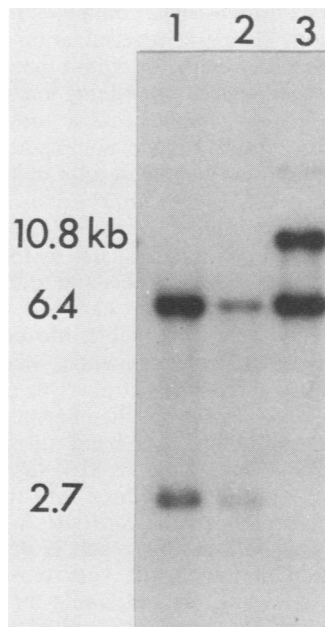


FIG. 9. *URA2A* content of strains α SP4 and α SPT2. (Lane 1) α SPT2 and (lane 2) α SP4 DNA cleaved with *Bam*HI. Lane 3, Mixture of *Bam*HI-cleaved pJLS1 and *Sal*I-cleaved pJLS1 from a Southern blot, hybridized with the *Bam*HI *URA2* fragment.

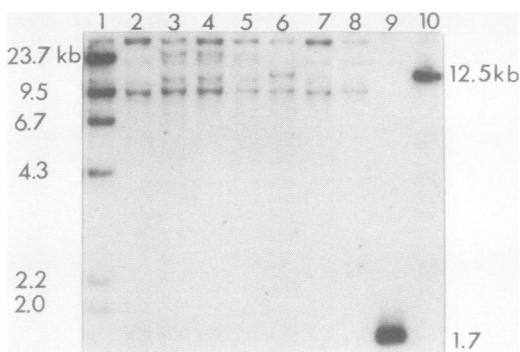


FIG. 10. *HIS3* content of translocated strains. Southern blot of DNA from: lane 1, phage λ cleaved with *Hind*III; lane 2, α GRF18 Δ *ura2A*; lane 3, α SPT2C; lane 4, α SPT2D; lane 5, α SPT2; lane 6, α SP4; lane 7, α SPT2A; lane 8, α SPT2B. (Lane 10) pBW2 cleaved with *Xho*I and (lane 9) pBW2 cleaved with *Bam*HI after hybridization with radioactive probes of λ DNA and the *HIS3* *Bam*HI fragment.

DNAs contained six bands of 40, 20, 10, and 9 kb in addition to 25- and 11-kb bands. Finally, in strain α SP4 five bands of about 40, 20, 12.5, 10, and 9 kb were detected.

DISCUSSION

Genetic and biochemical data allow us to confirm that strain α SPT2 contains a reciprocal translocation. The percent germination of progeny from its cross with the wild-type α FL100 suggested that spores containing recombinant genomes were not viable because they did not conserve the entire genetic complement. This fact was confirmed by the results of the cross between α SPT2C (*his3⁺ ura2⁺*) and α GRF18 Δ *ura2A* (*his3⁻ ura2⁻*), which allowed us to follow the *HIS3* and *URA2* alleles by the phenotypes of their meiotic products and to show that only parental type genomes carrying a normal genetic complement were viable. Moreover, the neighboring *URA2* gene sequences were different from those in the α SP4 strain. One must also consider an explanation for the presence of only two *URA2*-containing *Sal*I bands in Southern blots of translocated and α SP4 strains with pJLS1 as the probe when three *Sal*I fragments were expected due to the *Sal*I site in pBR322 (19). We suggest that this result is due to the superposition of two bands very close to the same size at 13 kb, one containing the pBR322 sequences and the other containing the *ura2⁻* deleted sequences. This is substantiated by the fact that the radioactivity visible in the 13-kb band when only the *URA2* *Bam*HI fragment was used as the probe (Fig. 7) was less intense than that found with pJLS1 as the probe (Fig. 6).

Concerning the *Xho*I pattern revealed with the *HIS3* probe (Fig. 10), two major bands were common to all strains as expected, but in addition two other minor bands were present in all strains. It appears that the 10- and 20-kb bands represent nonspecific hybridization which remains unexplained. Nevertheless, the differences between the patterns of the wild-type plasmid-transformed and translocated strains substantiate the occurrence of a reciprocal translocation. In addition to the 9- and 40-kb bands of the wild-type pattern, the plasmid-transformed strain α SP4 contains a band of 12.5 kb corresponding to the *HIS3* of plasmid pBW2 integrated at the *HIS3* chromosomal site on chromosome XV. In the translocated strains α SPT2, α SPT2C, and α SPT2D, the two bands of 11 and 25 kb could result from the translocation of one of the copies of the *HIS3* gene to its new chromosomal location. The molecular model presented in Fig. 11 is consistent with these results.

We did not find any significant differences in the *URA2* mRNA yields of FL100 and α SPT2C, α SPT2D, and α SPT2. Moreover, all these strains have the same generation time in complete as well as in minimal medium. The general behavior of the translocated strains and in particular the *URA2* expression seemed to be the same even when the DNA sequences downstream from *URA2* were changed.

When seven putative translocated strains were analyzed genetically by backcross to the wild-type strain, the meiotic products were nonviable at predictable percentages in all cases. Thus, other possible events such as insertions at other sites or conversion were not frequent products of our selections. In addition, evidence is available which eliminates the possibility of conversion events in the construction of the α SPT2 strain. First, if that were the case, one could expect to obtain 100% germination after crossing α SPT2 with α FL100, just like the test cross. Second, one would expect the *Sal*I pattern by Southern blot hybridization to reveal a fragment of at least 16 kb from chromosome X (see Fig. 11) with the same intensity as the 11-kb fragment (which contains the complete *URA2* sequence) revealed with the *URA2* *Bam*HI fragment as probe. In fact, with this probe, a 13-kb fragment was observed (Fig. 7) which in all cases was much less intensive than the 11-kb fragment. These two results eliminate the possibility that the *Ura2⁺* phenotype was conferred by genetically converting the *URA2* allele on chromosome X by the *URA2* allele on chromosome XV.

This method can be applied to select reciprocal translocation between any parts of chromosomes from which DNA fragments have been

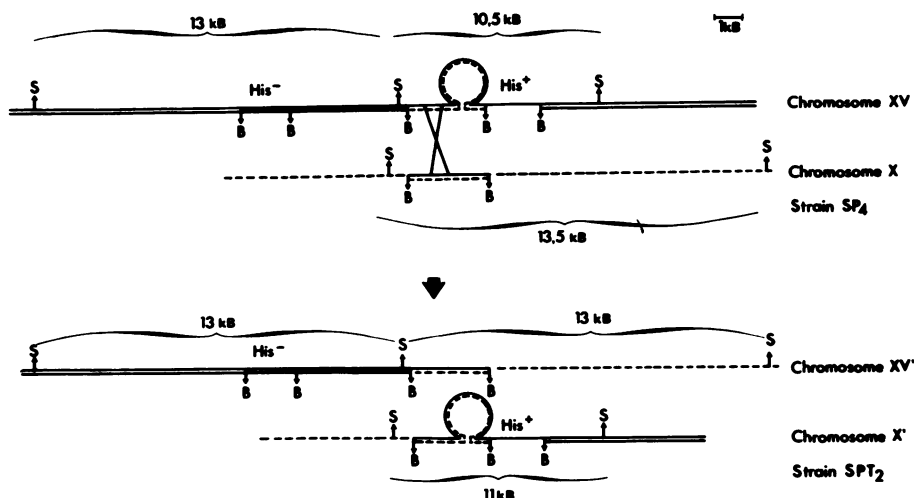


FIG. 11. Diagram of the sequence of events giving rise to a reciprocal translocation. B, *Bam*HI; S, *Sal*I. The *Sal*I fragment sizes are only approximate. The pBR322 *Sal*I site is the only one located with precision (19).

cloned and can be reinserted without inactivating an adjacent vital gene. This means generally that the cloned DNA fragment must contain at least one boundary between two genes but it is not necessary to have a selectable marker in the position where one wants to direct the translocation. The following is an operational outline. One plasmid bearing about the first two-thirds of an X^+ gene, a full Y^+ gene, and a piece of DNA of one of the chromosomal sites where the translocation is desired is inserted at this latter site by Y^+ selection. A second plasmid bearing about the last two-thirds of X^+ , a full Z^+ gene, and a piece of DNA of the second chromosomal site chosen for the translocation is inserted at this site by Z^+ phenotype selection. Then the selection of an X^+ phenotype will allow recovery of the desired translocation. We note that ideally the $X^- Y^- Z^-$ receptor strain should contain chromosomal deletions for the cloned fragments of X , Y , and Z , but this is not prerequisite for obtaining a reciprocal translocation as long as genetic and Southern blot analyses are carried out to eliminate recombination events other than those indicated in the outline.

This work confirms that it is possible to direct an interchromosomal rearrangement at chosen sites and suggests that the gross chromosomal organization of chromosomes X and XV must not be of particular importance for the cell's basic metabolism.

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